

**Process for Consideration of  
Overtures and Concurrences to the General Assembly  
within the Presbytery of Redstone**

**Overview**

Overtures and concurrences must be approved by a presbytery or synod and shall request the General Assembly(GA) to take a particular action or approve or endorse a particular statement or resolution. All overtures and concurrences must be submitted with that approval to the Office of the General Assembly(OGA) in a timely manner.

120 Days prior to GA---Overtures and concurrences requesting amendment to or interpretation of the Book of Order

60 Days prior to GA—Overtures and concurrences with financial implications for current or future budgets.

45 Days prior to GA—All other overtures and concurrences

**Deliberation**

Overtures and concurrences should be considered as part of its agenda at a Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone. Consequently, requests for consideration of an overture or concurrence should be submitted to the Council meeting prior to the Presbytery meeting in order for it to be included on the agenda. Any overture or concurrence that might be considered “controversial”(1.1006e) must be submitted and reviewed by the Council(check website for meeting dates) in sufficient time to be included with the packet for distribution.

Overtures and concurrences will not be scheduled as the agenda for a special or called meeting unless there are at least five sessions of Redstone congregations that concur on an overture. This option should only be considered when the deadline for the next stated meeting has passed and there will not be another stated meeting that would comply with the General Assembly deadlines. The request should include a written document stating the official action of the session(s), signed by the clerk of session or the moderator and the request for this meeting sent to the Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery.

Additionally, the Council will assume responsibility for appointing a three member team by June of the year prior to GA to review the list of overtures on an ongoing basis for which the presbytery might want to consider concurrence at a presbytery meeting. Any Council member may also suggest consideration of any of the available overtures by the Council. The Council shall make a decision about any overtures that they choose to refer to a standing committee or task force and any that they desire to put before the presbytery for concurrence. Any overtures included for consideration for concurrence will be named in the presbytery packet, along with where commissioners might obtain additional information on the overture. The Council will also plan for how education, discussion and prayer on the overture(s) might precede consideration and action at the appropriate presbytery meeting.

## **Timing**

Given these deadlines, it is imperative that overtures and concurrences be submitted for consideration by the Presbytery of Redstone with adequate notice. An overture or concurrence may originate from any session of a congregation within Redstone Presbytery, a teaching elder, a standing committee or a task force of the Presbytery.

The Associate Clerk shall alert all clerks of session of congregations and all teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders concerning the list of proposed overtures and how to access the current and future ones as they are submitted. Additionally, beginning in October, notice will be placed in the Redstone email newsletter concerning how to access a copy of submitted overtures.

In order to meet the OGA deadlines, overtures and concurrences concerning the Book of Order will need to be approved no later than the January meeting of the Presbytery. All other overtures and concurrences would need to be approved not later than the March meeting (because of the date of the May meeting).

## **Recording**

Any overture or concurrence that is approved by the presbytery will be submitted electronically by the Stated Clerk on behalf of the body. Receipt of all overtures in the Office of General Assembly (OGA) will be acknowledged by letter to the Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery. Any overture submitted by the Presbytery of Redstone will provide an opportunity for one member of the presbytery to serve as an overture advocate.